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Method and Apparatus for Efficiently Initializing Secure Communications Among Wireless Devices

The present invention relates generally to security management for wireless devices and more particularly to creating a secure, short-range network for securely transmitting information among wireless devices.

Related Patents

The present application entitled " Method and Apparatus for Efficiently Initializing Secure Communications Among Wireless Devices" is related to other United States Patent applications filed concurrently herewith, and specifically to the applications entitled "Method and Apparatus for Efficiently Initializing Mobile Wireless Devices", application serial number ⁰⁹08/316,804 filed May 21, 1999 and

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"Method and Apparatus for Exclusively Pairing Wireless Devices", application serial number ⁰⁹ ~~08~~ ^{new U.S. Pat. No. 6,772,331} 316,686 filed May 21, 1999. All of these applications are assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

Background

5 The proliferation of wireless devices in computer networks has created a significant problem in the synchronization and secure interconnection of devices. Most wireless devices today are digital, using radio waves to communicate. A typical professional utilizing wireless devices today has a pager which receives digital messages, a digital cellular phone and a notebook computer with a wireless modem to retrieve and send e-mail. To connect to the office or other networks requires special hardware (such as adapter cards having transmission mechanisms) designed to connect to a wide-area or local-area network, which will then allow wire line access to the resources that the professional worker is accustomed to accessing.

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A standard has been proposed for the merger of mobile communications with mobile computing. This standard, referred to herein as 'Bluetooth', proposes the incorporation of a small, inexpensive radio into every mobile device. Since this radio is designed to a standard, the mobile device and radio combination can then be optimized to reduce interference. The optimization is feasible since there is a common wireless protocol implemented in a single radio frequency band, rather than the multitude of optional devices
20 using diverse technologies in various radio frequency bands available for wireless access today. The small, low-powered radio is intended for distribution in a module or chip that will communicate with other 'Bluetooth' enabled products. The Bluetooth standard is defining the communications between two selected devices and/or multiple selected devices.